

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 ISO-00 SAJ-01 /054 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5623

INFO DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: ORANGE LIGHT TO MORO AT DC
DIRECTORATE

REF: ROME 2010

1. FOLLOWING DECISION OF SOCIALISTS TO ABSTAIN ON PARLIAM-
MENTARY CONFIDENCE VOTE IN EVENT MORO FORMS ALL-DC GOVERNMENT,
REPUBLICANS FEB 5 REACHED SIMILAR DECISION, WHILE SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS PROMISED PARLIAMMENTARY SUPPORT. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
THUS CONFRONTED WITH UNWELCOME PROSPECT OF HAVING BARE MINIMUM
OF SUPPORT NECESSARY TO LAUNCH A MORO "MONOCOLORE" GOVERNMENT.

2. DC DIRECTORATE MET ALL DAY YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS SITUATION.
SESSION, WHICH ENDED SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT, CHARACTERIZED BY
SUPPORT FROM DC LEFT FOR MORO EFFORT, STRONG OPPOSITION BY FANFANI
AND EXTREME "PERPLEXITY" EXPRESSED BY CENTRIST PICCOLI-BISAGLIA
AND ADREOTTI FACTIONS. (ANDREOTTI HIMSELF WAS IN BRUSSELS,
POSSIBLY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION IN DIRECTORATE FOLLOWING HIS
RECENT CRITICISMS OF SERIOUSNESS OF MORO'S EFFORTS TO REACH
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A DC-PSI ACCORD.)

3. NET RESULT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED DIRECTORATE DOCUMENT EXPRESSING REGRET THAT PREVIOUSLY STATED DC CONDITIONS FOR FORMING A GOVERNMENT PRE-ESTABLISHED MAJORITY ON AN AGREED PROGRAM) HAVE NOT BEEN MET, VOICING "CONFIDENCE" IN MORO, AND CALLING ON DC PARTY DELEGATION (BARTOLOMEI, PICCOLI AND ZACCAGNINI) TOO SEEK GREATER "SOLIDARITY" FROM OTHER PARTIES (OF FORMER MAJORITY) BEHIND A NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. NEXT STEP WILL BE ROUND OF INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS OF MORO AND/OR DC DELEGATION WITH OTHER PARTIES TO SEEK TO INDUCE REPUBLICANS AND SOCIALISTS TO GO BEYOND PROMISED ABSTENTION IN BACKING A NEW GOVERNMENT. NET RESULT IS FURTHER DELAY IN RESOLUTION OF MONTH-LONG GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY SOURCES CLOSE TO FANFANI AND THE PICCOLI-BISAGLIA "DOROTEO" FACTION SUGGEST THAT EFFORT UNDERWAY WITHIN DC TO "CHANGE HORSES" AND SUBSTITUTE CENTRIST LIKE FORLANI OR ANDREOTTI FOR MORO AS PREMIER-DESIGNATE. REASONING IS THAT DC CANNOT FACE HIGH RISK OF EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WITH MORO AS PM AND HIS MAN, ZACCAGNINI, AS PARTY SECRETARY AS THIS WOULD PRESENT TOO "LEFTIST" AN IMAGE. SAME SOURCES ARE VERY UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS EFFORT WILL SUCCEED, AS THEY BELIEVE THERE IS NO LONGER A CLEAR MAJORITY WITHIN THE PARTY AND EXPECT MORO TO BE TENACIOUS IN PRESSING ON WITH MONOCOLORE. AT THIS POINT, MAJOR POSSIBILITIES REMAIN WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN THROUGHOUT CRISIS: A MORO SUCCESS IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT TO LAST THROUGH PARTY CONGRESSES; CHANGING HORSES IN FAVOR OF A DC CENTRIST LIKE ANDREOTTI WHO, PARADOXICALLY, MIGHT BE BETTER RECEIVED BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PSI (EG. MANCINI); OR A DECISION BY PRESIDENT LEONE TO SEND MORO-LA MALFA OUTGOING GOVERNMENT INTO PARLIAMENT TO FIGHT (AND LOSE) CONFIDENCE VOTE. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THE RISK OF EARLY ELECTIONS REMAINS HIGH. VOLPE

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